

Northfield Public Library Site and Vision Plan

Summary Document - Pop Up #02 – Third Thursday

Event Date: 17 August 2024

Attendees

Northfield Library supporting Engagement Activity: Natalie, Steve

TEN x TEN: Satoko, Xan

Audience: Approximately 60 people

Event/Project Promotion

City of Northfield Facebook and newsletters promoting Third Thursday (not necessarily this engagement)

Event Overview and Format

Library staff and the design team engaged approximately 60 people (one third children under the age of 12) at the Northfield Open Streets Third Thursday event. The event was held on Main Street from 5-8pm, with engagement occurring 5-7pm. The bookmobile was onsite for checking out books.

Event Goals

1. Use art materials to engage in unique way and draw from different audiences.
2. Understand what people want out of the redesign.
3. Get folks to share their big dreams!

Event Format

The engagement tool for Pop-Up #02 was an accordion book to be filled out by participants. The book had two sides, one (red) with prompts based on gaming language, one (blue) with prompts based on storybook language. Participants were invited to fill out either (or both!) sides of the book to tell the story of what they want outside the library. Stamps, ink, and pens were provided to tell the stories. A poster with words to prompt ideas to fill in the blanks was placed on the table and the stamps provided included animals, trees, emojis, letters, and natural symbols. Four foamcore boards each with slightly different interactive activities (the same 4 from Pop-Up #01) were set up on easels behind the table. All participants were asked to engage with each board, but some preferred to respond to one or two boards only (Boards 2 and 3 received the most answers). When families participated, often children did the book and the parents would interact with the boards.

Highlights from Event

- Audience: The majority of participants live on the east side of Northfield. Many of the participants were youths or families with young children.
- For the «Space» Board, respondents were interested in community and group spaces for events, gathering, and work/lunch.
- «Space Board» respondents also focused on the Environment; specifically stormwater, shade trees, and pollinator plantings.
- Due to the large number of kids and families that participated, many selections for the Activity Board were kid-focused, specifically nature play and games.
- While the red side of the book was designed to be used by adults and the blue by kids, participants of all age groups filled out both sides.
- The book responses focused on spaces with trees, shade, quiet, and comfort. Respondents wanted to read or play in the landscape, consistent with the board responses.
- This results leaned towards community-gathering and kid oriented spaces and activities for the landscape. This is likely an outcome of the audience engaged.

TEN X TEN

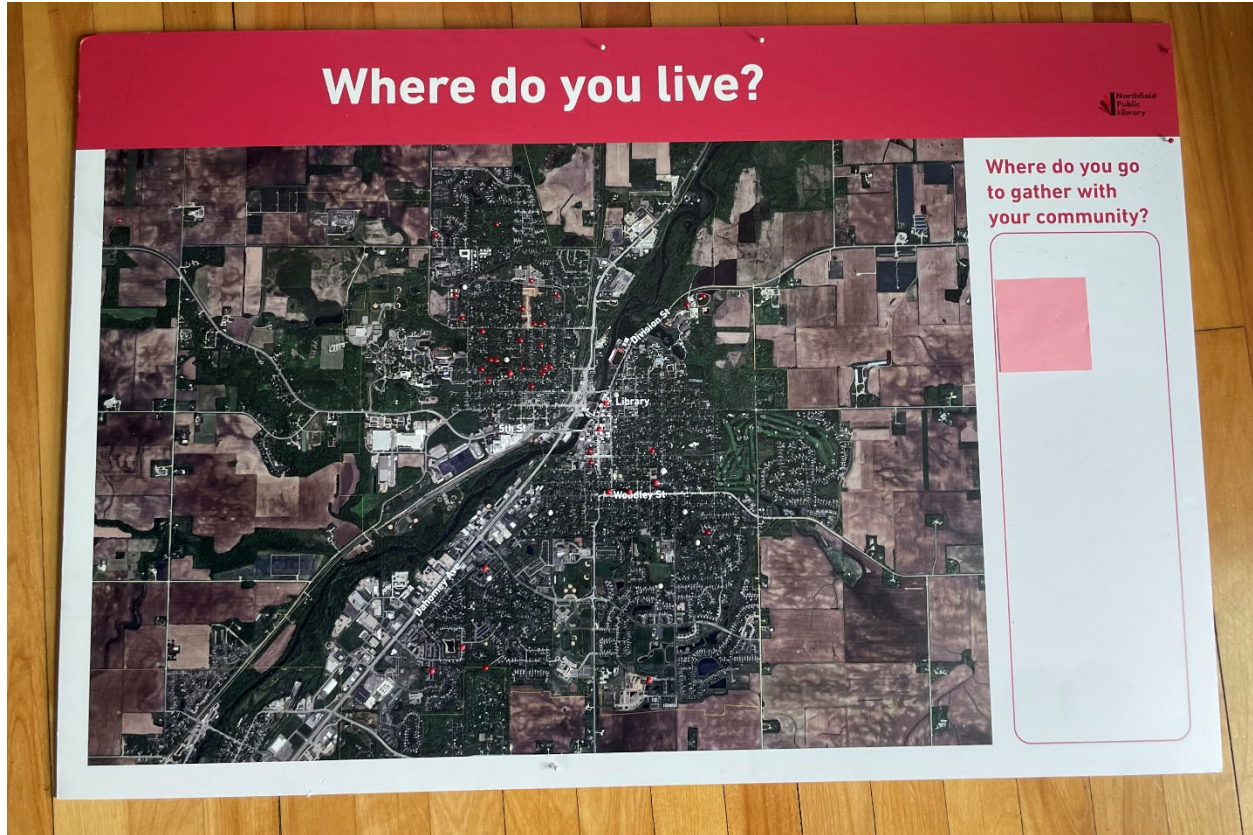
- The books skewed toward «forest» types landscapes, this is may be a result of the stamps provided. However, board respondents were interested in shade trees so it is a larger concern for the audience.





Activity Board 1: Where Do You Live?

Participants used sewing pins to mark where they live on a map of Northfield. They were invited to respond with a Post-it Note to the question: *Where do you go to gather with your community?* Foamcore board was set on an easel.



Responses

Prompt 1: Where do you live?

1. 21 people responded.
2. 3 live outside the bounds of the map,
3. 4 live on the west side of Northfield (visually nearby to Way Park)
4. 14 live on the east side, some near the library.

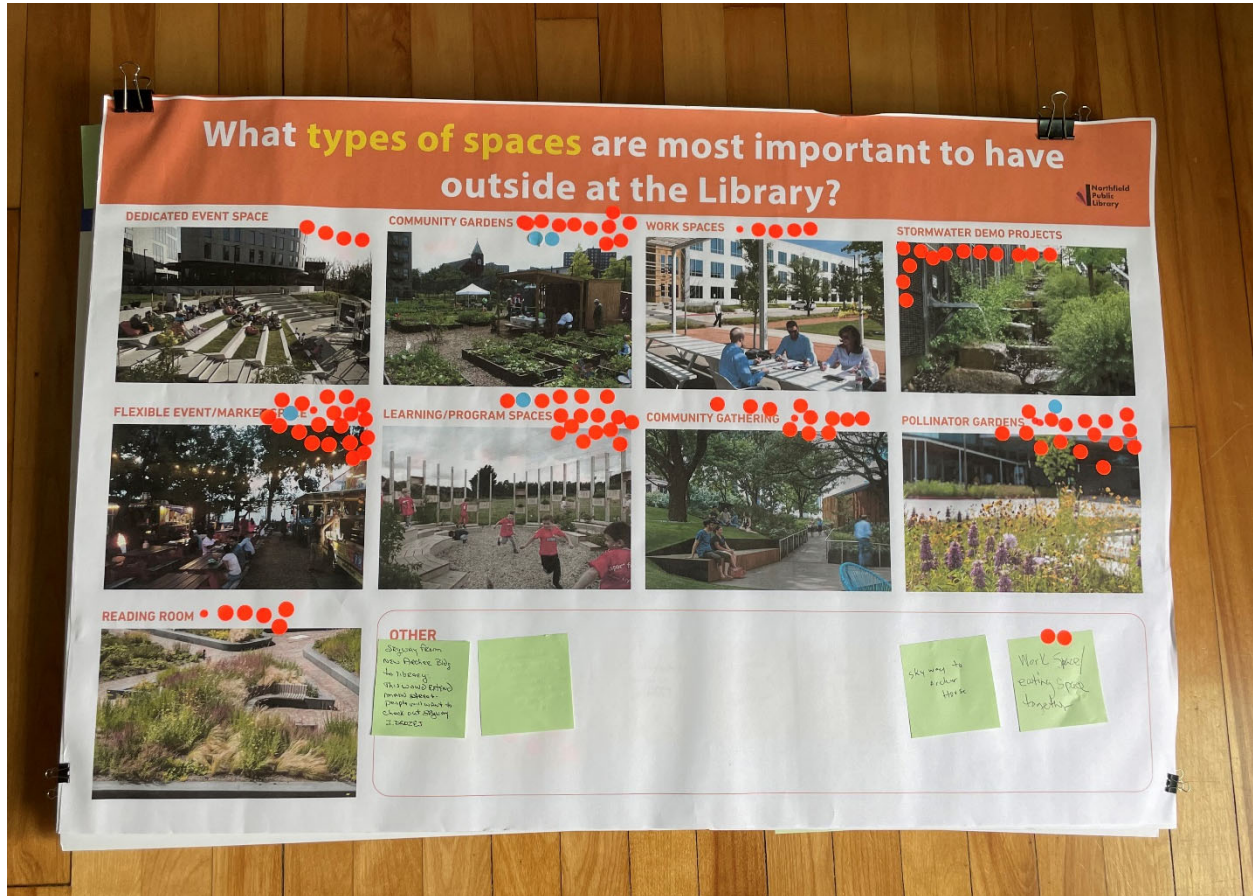
Prompt 2: Where do you go to gather with your community?

1. No responses

Activity Board 2: What Types of Spaces Are Most Important to Have Outside the Library?

Participants were directed to think about what kinds of landscapes they'd like to see at the library. The board contained 9 images of different types of outdoor spaces and space for "other" ideas. Participants were given 3 orange dots to help prioritize types of spaces they think are important for the library. They could also add or vote for "other" by writing a place on a Post-it note. Foamcore board was placed on an easel.

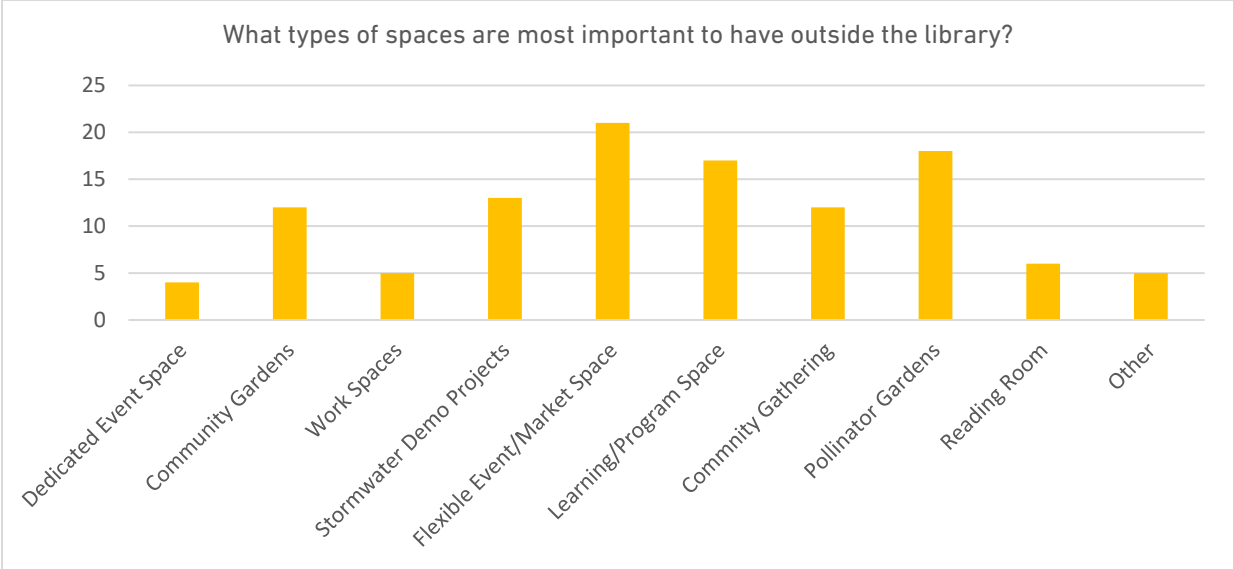
- 113 responses were recorded, if all participants placed 3 dots (or Post-its) there were 38 (37.667) total participants.
- Of the 113 votes, 3 were Post-it note comments, one of which received 2 additional votes.



Responses

Prompt: What types of spaces are most important to have outside the library?

- Participants were most interested in event space.
 - Flexible Event/Market Space and Community Gathering received high vote counts (21 and 12 respectively).
- Pollinator Gardens and Stormwater Demonstration Projects also received high vote counts (18 and 12)
- Learning/Program Space (with images of children playing in an outdoor classroom) received the third-most number of votes (16).
- In the comments, one person added «Work Space/Eating Space» and 2 others voted for it as well.



Other

- Skyway from new Archer Building to Library: this would extend main street - people will want to check out skyway.
- skyway to Archer House
- Work Space/Eating Space – together x2

Board 3: What Amenities or Activities Would You Like to See in These Spaces?

For this activity participants voted again, but this time for the kinds of activities they'd like to do or types of amenities they'd like to see in the library landscape. The board contained 8 images of different types of activities and 4 images of amenities to consider. Participants were given 3 blue dots to help prioritize their selections for amenities or activities. Foamcore board was placed on an easel.

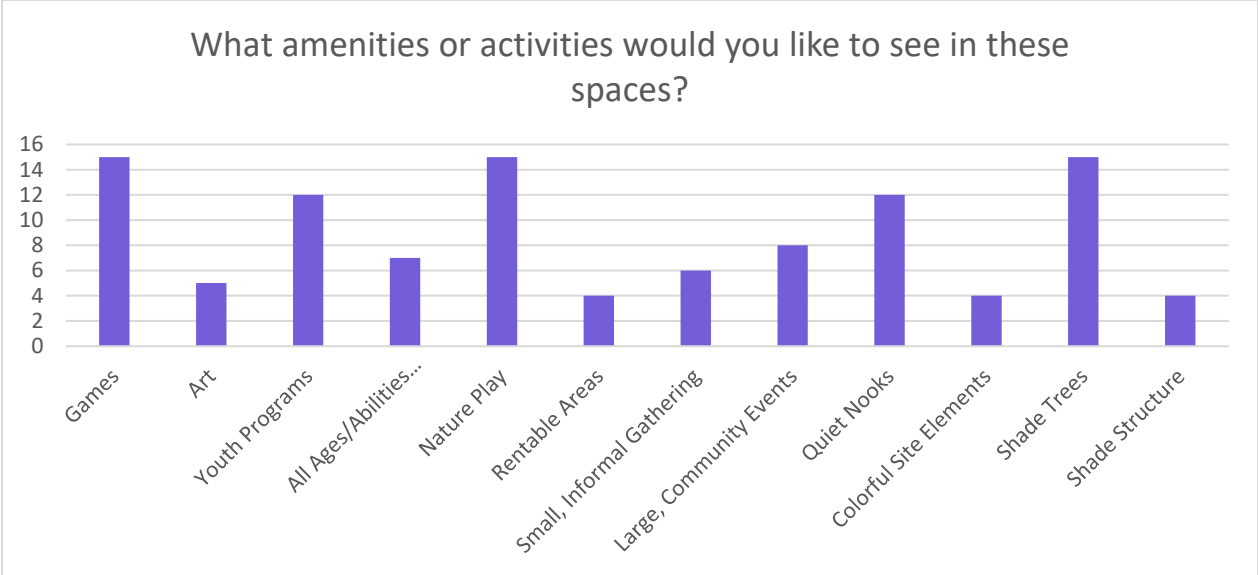
- 107 responses were recorded, if all participants placed 3 dots there were 36 (35.667) total participants.
- Activities included Games, Youth Programs, Nature Play, Rentable Areas, Small Informal Gathering, Large Community Events, Quiet Nooks, All Ages/ Abilities Programs
- Site Amenities included Art, Colorful Site Elements, Shade Trees, Shade Structure



Responses

Prompt: What amenities or activities would you like to see in these spaces?

- Activities oriented towards children were the most popular
 - Nature Play and Games each received the most votes (15) and Youth Programs (12) also received high votes.
- Participants showed interest in Shade Trees (15) and Shade Structures (4) receiving a combined 19 votes,
- Participants also showed interest in Quiet Nooks (12).
- The least popular activities were Rentable Areas (4), Large, Colorful Site Elements (4) and Shade Structure (4). Some participants did say they felt like they should be voting for the All Age/Ability program.



Activity Board 4: What Are Your Favorite Aspects About the Current Library Site? What Are the Biggest Challenges?

The board displayed a map of the existing library site and 8 images of elements of the existing library site that staff had identified as either special or a challenge on the March 2024 site walk. Participants filled out post its with their favorite spaces or elements and areas of challenge and stuck them to the board, at the approximate location of the space or appropriate image. Foamcore board was set on an easel. In order to draw conclusions from these responses, they were categorized into Accessibility, Amenities, Environment, Events, Storytime Steps, Youth, and Other after the event.



Responses

Prompt: What are your favorite aspects about the current library site? What are the biggest challenges?

- a. 7 people responded, with the top most commented on categories:
 - ii. 3 comments regarding Amenities
 - iii. 6 people expressed their love for the Storytime Steps, as something to enjoy at the library and when walking past (though not Accessible)
 - iv. The Environment was mentioned by 2 Commenters (more permeable landscape and more shaped trees)

What are your favorite aspects about the current library site? Where are the biggest challenges?	
like terrace - could have more events there! With portable furniture below.	Amenities
the fortress wall was covered in 2016 - but it needs to be replaced with something more interesting while it still address the drainage and levels	Amenities
I love the shaded, hidden garden feel of the Div St side.	Amenities
Way less concrete and way more permeable landscape/walkways	Environment
I love the book staircase art. I wish it was more accessible (the steps are slippery in the winter)	Storytime Steps
I love the public books-based art that the community can enjoy! I'd love more! I'd also love more shade & greenery.	Storytime Steps
The book steps are unique - fun for all ages. Would be nice to include literature in design in some way. Presence Carnegie library terrace.	Storytime Steps

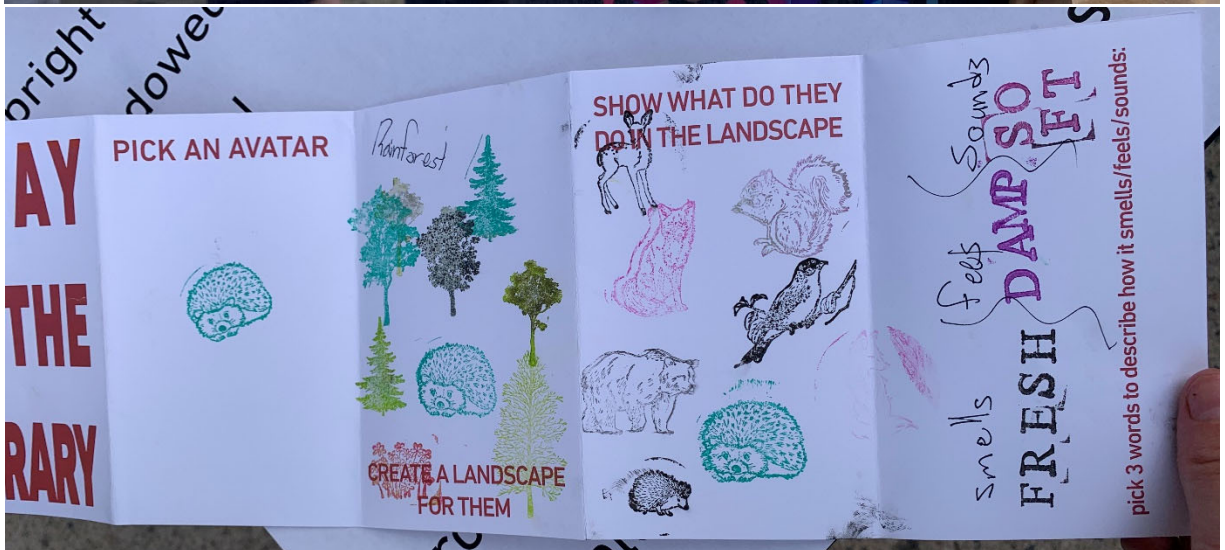
Book Side Red

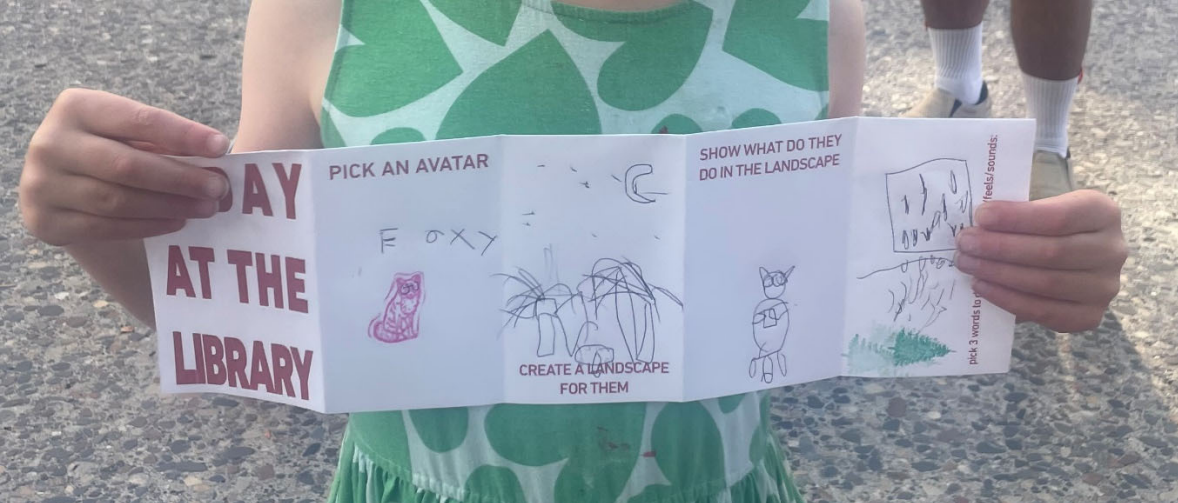
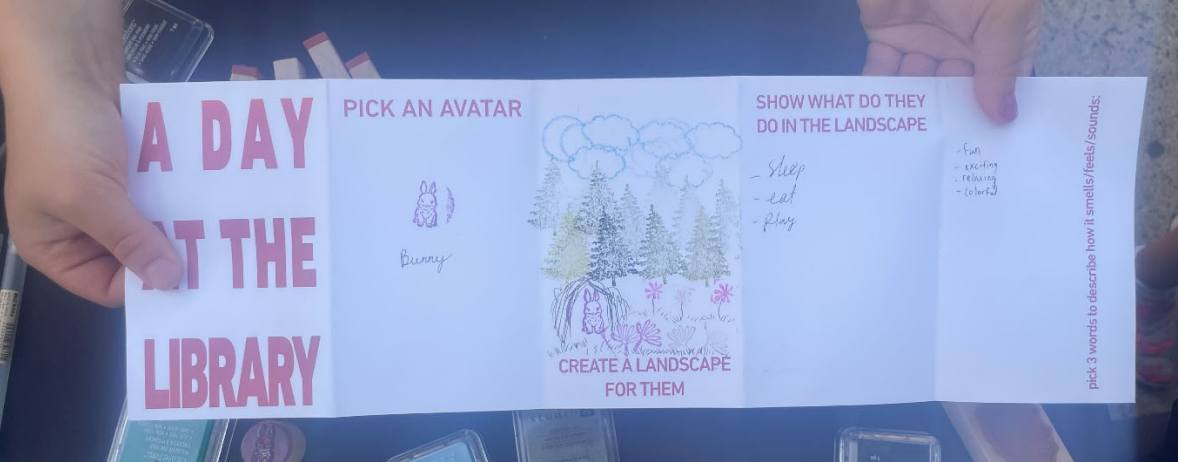
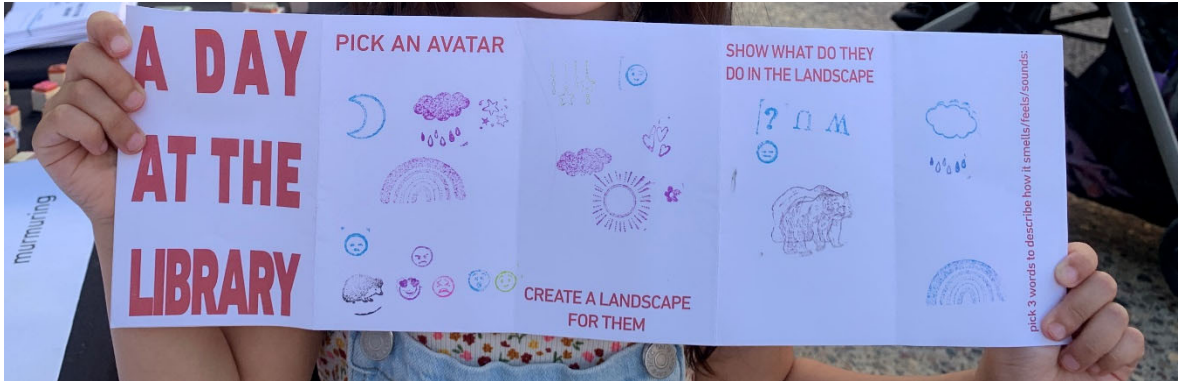
The red side was oriented towards adults with prompts based on gaming (“PICK AN AVATAR” “CREATE A LANDSCAPE FOR THEM” “SHOW WHAT THEY DO IN THE LANDSCAPE” “pick 3 words to describe how it smells/feels/sounds”). Stamps, ink, and pens were provided to tell the stories. A poster with words to prompt ideas to fill in the blanks was placed on the table with the stamps, ink, and pens. TxT attempted to photograph all the resulting books before the participants took them home, but some were missed. 7 are summarized below.

Responses

1. Respondents preferred forests with others as their main landscapes and activities.
2. Respondents drew pictures of forests and nature scenes for the landscapes,
 - a. 3 with friends to play with, 1 with a friend, 1 to read in.
 - b. It smelled like trees or needles (2), fresh, rain, quiet, exciting, and sweets.
 - c. It felt damp/rain (2), fun, comfy, relaxing, and soft (fox).
 - d. It sounded soft, beautiful, laughter/talking, colorful, and like a forest.

Item	PICK AN AVATAR	CREATE A LANDSCAPE FOR THEM	SHOW WHAT THEY DO IN THE LANDSCAPE	pick 3 words to describe how it smells/feels/sounds		
r1	[hedgehog]	[forest]	[friends]	[tree]	[fox]	[bear]
r2	[hedgehog]	rainforest	[friends]	fresh	damp	soft
r3	[hedgehog]		skateboarding, many kids	quiet	fun	beautiful
r4	[hedgehog]	[sun, cloud, stars, heart, flower, winky face]	WU?	[rain / rainbow]		
r5	[shocked face]		broken snail	lemonade / cupcakes / perfume	comfy / cozy / special	facetime / laughter / talking
r6	bunny		sleep, eat, play	exciting	relaxing	colorful
r7	foxy		[reading fox with glasses]	[pine needles]	[rain]	[forest]





Book Side Blue

The blue side was oriented towards children with prompts based on a storybook (“hi my name is __ (*make a picture of yourself*)” “my favorite thing to do at the library is __(*make a picture of this activity*)” “if I could do this anywhere, it would be__(*make a picture of this place*)” “it smells like / it feels like / it sounds like (*describe this place*)”). Stamps, ink, and pens were provided to tell the stories. A poster with words to prompt answers to fill in the blanks was placed on the table with the stamps, ink, and pens. TxT attempted to photograph all the resulting books before the participants took them home, but some were missed. 10 are summarized below

Responses

1. Respondent’s predominant activity was reading, and they wanted to do it in the woods, which smell like woods and flowers, feel like soft and home, and sound like birds and wind in the trees. They liked natural settings.
2. Respondents’ favorite thing to do at the library is read (5), with different types of play (3) a close second. Other responses include poetry open mic night and “build”.
 - a. They wanted to do these things in a forest/woods/yard (4), at home, at the playground, in a comfy chair, or in a den.
 - b. The sensory descriptors confirmed these choices, with it smelling like woods/flowers (5), food (3), or nothing.
 - c. It feels soft (2), home (2), wet, a cool breeze, calm, or barky.
 - d. It sounds like birds (2), wind in trees (2), quiet, laughter, kicking a soccer ball, wood, and foxes.

Item	name	hi! my name is	my favorite thing to do at the library is	if I could do this anywhere, it would be	it smells like	it feels like	it sounds like
b1	aubin	aubin	play videogames	at my house	nothing	home	me kicking a soccer ball
b2			play at kitchen, make foods for	at playground	flowers	wet	birds "tweet" "tweet"
b3		Wendy	go to poetry open mic!!	in my yard, on the deck	spring, flowers	a cool breeze	Psthurism! (a big word for the sound of wind in the trees) AND lots of birds!
b4	grace & abi	Grace & Abi	play games and eat cupcakes	the library	cupcakes	soft and cozy	laughter
b5	max	dora	read	in a den	bacon	home	foxes
b6			read	forrest	wood	barky	wood
b7	vivi	vivi	read	the woods	pine	calm	wind thru trees
b8		sly	read a book		candy		birds
b9	Justice	Gary	Read	forest	forest	soft	quiet
b10	Norah	kiki	build	in a comfy chair			

